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# California GARDEN

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## FALL ACTIVITIES

### CHRYSANTHEMUM SHOW

October 26, 27

Floral Bldg., Balboa Park
San Diego Floral Ass'n

### FALL ROSE SHOW

November 16, 17

San Diego Rose Society

### NATIONAL ROSE MEET

Oklahoma City, Okla.
October 20, 21, 22
American Rose Society

### FALL MEETING

California
Garden Clubs, Inc.
Yosemite Valley, Oct. 18, 19, 20

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# Must We Prune? . . .

By ERIC E. EASTMAN

As I sit beneath the pines of the San Jacinto Mountains on vacation leave and gaze upon the varied verdure of the forest I wonder why seekers after beauty should ever commit the sacrilege of pruning.

Perhaps it is because we purchase a little piece of earth and try to crowd all Heaven into it. Or perhaps we think that we are imbued with the classical Greek ideal of perfection, and so seek to make each plant assume the symmetry of form which we think is its perfection; but which is rarely seen in nature. I say "rarely" advisedly for I see no herb, shrub or tree about me in all the forest that is symmetrical or "true to a form." Assuredly it is this irregularity that makes the forest vistas so pleasing to the eye and develops such a never-ending variety of form, size and color. This, together with expansiveness, causes it to become so inviting and restful that all normal people love the forest. Yet each tree bears witness to the intense struggle it has had for existence, and carries the marks and scars of outrageous fortune, which combined, give it an individuality, even attractiveness, that would be entirely lacking in a "perfect" tree.

As a finis to this contemplation, I may add that, unfortunately, pruning is more likely to produce a monstrosity than perfection, especially if inexperience wields the shears and ignorance drags the saw. Now let's consider people and performance just this one time, rather than too many principles.

There are some people who prune just because they want to be doing something out-doors and there is nothing else left to do. Less interesting results, but more beauty and more harmony in the family would usually result if these worthy enthusiasts would acquire a subsidiary out-door hobby such as fishing or photography to occupy their surplus time and energy.

The necessity for pruning is frequently the result of improper planting . . . the result of lack of knowledge concerning the ultimate size and shape of the mature shrub or tree, they so hopefully plant and tenderly nurture. All too often we see darkened windows and lifted foundations where all that was originally desired was a low shrubbery background. Such unfortunate experiences are easily avoidable today as there are many well-qualified landscape architects and experienced nurserymen available for conference and advice concerning the fundamental plans and planting which are the first requisite for a satisfactory garden. The old method was to plant indiscriminately for the first twenty years and practice forest removal thereafter to the end of time: pruning "ad nauseum" therewith. The rectification of past follies in planting is a slow and expensive process entirely devoid of pleasure, and in some respects allied to the primitive struggle for existence.

Regardless of our regard for the unaffected and natural, we realize that only a few homes can be established and maintained under such surroundings, though more community of thought and enterprise might make at least parts of our city more attractive and desirable. Practically, most gardens are small and have to be kept within due bounds and free from undergrowth. Pruning is of course the obvious means of accomplishing these objectives unless some thought is given to scale in the original planting — that is, relation of size of plant to the size of the garden.

There are a considerable number of writings on the subject of pruning, some of which are adaptable to our conditions. The publications of the University of California on the pruning of fruit trees are applicable as far as they go, and may be secured free upon request to the Farm Advisor's office, San Diego. Even in the case of these trees, however, no pruning is preferable to improper prnning; though the directions in these agricultural bulletins are usually such that they can be readily followed by amateur horticulturists. It is sometimes difficult to secure the services of locally experienced pruners for home orchards, as the size of the jobs does not warrant their attention. Unknown pruners are to be avoided if possible, for such persons may be unqualified and do far more harm than good. The latter also applies to ornamental pruners and employ-

ment should only be given to those recommended by established landscape architects and nurserymen. This restriction is necessary because there is no provision for state examination and registration of pruners, and therefore anyone with or without a set of tools can solicit business and operate. If the operation is not successful, there is no probable redress, and the owner is merely sadder and maybe wiser. On the contrary, as may be seen in our parks and most beautiful gardens, properly experienced pruners add a vigor and neatness to plants that is practically indispensable.

If your garden is small and you are therefore required, or wish to do the pruning yourself, I would recommend the procedore set forth in R. Sanford Martin's little book entitled "How to Prune Western Shrubs" published by the News-Post Press of Monrovia in 1935. All the methods and recommendations that I have had occasion to check have proven accurate and correct, and I feel that Mr. Martin has performed a real service in publishing this treatise and that it should be better known and more widely used by garden-lovers of the southland. This recommendation is gratis for I do not know either Mr. Martin or the publishers. It is possible that copies may be borrowed from the local library.

Pruning is more than just trimming a plant in the right way, for the time element is involved if blossoming and fruiting are not to be eliminated. Some plants should be pruned in the fall, others in the winter, and still others in the spring. Summer pruning also has its place and is highly desirable to direct the growth of certain plants. Such a knowledge of detail is required to prune the great variety of plants grown in our Southland that it is not feasible to attempt to cover the subject, when, as mentioned above, it has already been well enough done elsewhere. The final conclusion therefore is, if you don't know how, get an experienced recommended pruner to do the job.

Eric E. Eastman,
Farm Adviser,
San Diego County.

# Bulbs in October . . .

By WALTER BIRCH JR.

More varieties of flowering Bulbs may be successfully planted this month, than any other month of the year. The two that give the most return for the money and effort expended are the Ranunculus and Anemone. Both produce quantities of usable blooms over a long period of time and both may be planted from September to February or March, although the October planting will produce the sturdier plant that will bloom the longest. The Ranunculus bulbs should be planted with the little claws down and covered to a depth of about two inches and eight inches apart. Anemones are planted with the point down and covered the same depth and distance apart. The Anemones particularly require good drainage and both require moderate irrigation. Just about the time they start to flower a good application of Vigoro or other good commercial fertilizer will materially increase the bloom size and greatly lengthen the flowering period.

Dutch Iris do very well here and come in quite a variety of colors. These bulbs should be planted to a depth of about two inches and six inches apart. They make nice cut flowers lasting well in water and should be grown a lot more than they are at present.

Freesias are always attractive, the white being very sweet scented and the different colors making a nice bright show. Freesias may be planted from July to January and may be left in the ground year after year, being taken up and separated once in every four years. If the bulbs are to be taken up they should not be dug until the tops have completely dried. Plant bulbs two or three inches apart and two inches deep.

Glory of the Sun (Leucocoryne) plant two inches deep and about six inches apart in a sunny situation. These bright blue, yellow centered flowers are excellent for cutting, keeping about two weeks in water.

Mariposa Tulip (Calochortus) plant three inches deep in a partly shaded bed by themselves. Mix leaf mould freely with the soil in preparing bed and water thoroughly when planting. They do not require much care after that first thorough soaking.

Oxalis take care of themselves if you will just plant them once, doing particularly well in partial shade. Should be planted two inches deep and about six inches apart.

Snowflakes (Leucojum vernum) —the pretty little white bells with the green spot. Plant bulbs about three inches deep in partial shade.

Brodiaea—The California "Wild Hyacinth" does well in a hot dry location in any ordinary garden soil. Bulbs should be planted about three inches deep and thoroughly watered at time of planting. After this the rains should take care of them alright.

Amaryllis Belladonna and Vittati Hybrids. Just barely cover the bulbs of both varieties and give moderate moisture. The immense blooms of the Vittati Hybrids vary in all the shades of red with white markings. The Belladonna are light pink and borne in clusters. If the Belladonna bulbs are moved between the time the leaves die down and the flower stem grows they are likely to miss flowering for several seasons. One should always be careful to transplant after the flower stock has died and before the leaves start to grow again.

Watsonias are always attractive, blooming in Spring and Summer, and may be planted from August to the first of December. The Hybrids are particularly effective. The bulbs should be planted about eight inches apart and three inches deep.

Narcissus or Daffodils are very easy to grow and make splendid cut flowers, keeping a long time in water. Bulbs should be planted five or six inches deep and about six inches apart. They do best in par-

tial shade but are quite satisfactory right out in the sun. The tops should be allowed to dry completely before being cut. If the top is cut short while still green the bulb will probably not bloom the following year. The varieties that are grown in water should be set out in the ground when through flowering and the top allowed to die naturally. The King Alfred is the largest and most popular of the Daffodils, but there are a number of other good varieties, all of which thrive in this section.

Tulips can be grown here with long stems if they are planted in a shady situation and the bulbs set seven or eight inches deep. Tulip bulbs will not be very plentiful this year and we don't expect to have any Hyacinths at all. So much for the more popular varieties of Bulbs.

The list of flowers that may be planted either from seeds or small plants includes: Stocks, Snapdragons, Larkspur, Bachelor Buttons, Calendulas, Venidium, Delphinium, Double Daisies, Clarkia, Godetia, California Poppy, Gaillardia, Geum, Cosmos, Shasta Daisy, Gypsophila, Canterbury Bells, Hollyhocks, French Marigold, Gerbera, Lupins, Mignonette, Nemesia, Linaria, Penstemon, Painted Daisy, Pansy, Petunia, Queen Anne's Lace Flower, Salvia, Scabiosa, Schizanthus, Verbena, and Wild Flower Mixtures. Winter Flowering Sweet Peas should not be overlooked if they have not already been planted.

Vegetables include: Peas, Radish, Turnips, Spinach, Broccoli, Cabbage, Lettuce, and Beets.

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**San Diego Floral Ass'n**

**Good Friends All:**

The fall meeting of the CALIFORNIA GARDEN CLUBS, INC., will be held in Yosemite Valley, October 18th, 19th, and 20th, with headquarters at the Ahwahnee Hotel..

Reservations can be made at either the Ahwahnee Hotel or the Yosemite Lodge.

A very interesting program is being planned.

FRANK J. McCOY,
California Garden Clubs, Inc.

# Bird Parade—Brown Towee

By FRANK FORREST GANDER

## "LA VIEJITA"

"La Viejita," as the Brown Towhee is called in Baja California, is well-named by our southern neighbors for the demurely dressed, fussily busy bird often reminds one of some little old woman with nothing in particular to do but still always still busily doing. Our more northern race, which we dub the California Brown Towhee, is much like the southern one in its habits, always scratching about for food, squabbling with its neighbors, and keeping a sharp eye on all animated objects in its vicinity. Whenever the canary bird's cage is cleaned and the scraps of bird seed are thrown out, or whenever bread crumbs are shaken from a table cloth, the Brown Towhee is almost always the first to find the spot and glean the harvest. That is, throughout the chaparral and coastal sagebrush associations the Brown Towhee is first — elsewhere it is not found.

This little fuss-budget is a bird of the brushland and never ventures far from such cover except where continuous stretches of dense shrubbery in yards and parks offer a good substitute. The gray brown of the towhee's feathers is the color of shadows under the greasewood; the short, rounded wings would not answer for long sustained flight, but serve well for darting through a tangle of branches, and the tail makes an excellent rudder for a bird living in a habitat where a straight course is impossible. The legs and feet are strong, too, and in the course of a day carry the bird almost as far as do the wings. In addition, they are used for scratching, not chicken fashion, but with both feet used together. La Viejita jumps forward a few inches, then kicks back with both feet, and in this way many weed seeds and little insects are uncovered.

While much of the food of the California Brown Towhee is waste matter and the bird is in the main beneficial, yet there are times when it arouses the wrath of the gardener. Like the Chinese, towhees are very fond of sprouted seeds, and woe to the hapless person who leaves a seed bed uncovered within the range of these sharp-eyed birds. But remember that their sharp eyes are just as quick at finding weed seeds and insects, so use netting over your planted seedlings and let the Brown Towhees continue to enliven your garden.

Brown Towhees do add life to a garden. Their sharp chirps may be heard at all hours of the day, but they do not bring the glory of song. There does come a time in early spring when the male tries to sing, but valiant as his efforts are, only the female of his own species can possibly be pleased with the results achieved. For too long he has been content to chirp, and when spring comes, the best the towhee can do is chirp. His song is just a succession of wheezy chirps. If the Brown Towhee can not sing, it can at least be friendly, and that it is. Whenever I work in the yard of my home near Lakeside, from two or three to a dozen of these birds will be working just as industriously all around me. I believe they would even make friends with the dog and cat if those worthies were not so eager to presume upon such a friendship.

—Frank Forrest Gander,
Natural History Museum, Balboa Park.

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**KATHERINE V. LEWIS TELLS US THAT—**

"Since spring is the time to enjoy the splendor of the native California plants, fall is the season to prepare and plant and October is the month to plan. Natives which are placed in their permanent places in the autumn will send their tap roots deep for moisture the first year." She continues next month with details for the novice. R.S.H.

# COMPLICATIONS and COMMENT

*Call this chitter, but not tattle—call it it gossip, call it prattle—*
*But whate'er may be its name, call it fun—*
*This garden game!*

## DESIGN OF GARDENS

Now that Allen Perry's splendid article on garden design has been concluded in these pages, I wish to say that I have clipped out the installments and arranged them together as a whole for frequent reference and study. This is a suggestion that many good gardeners could well carry out for most of us ARE inclined to stress the horticultural side to the detriment of layout or arrangement. When more of our better gardeners of the present day will give added thought and study to this one of the fundamental Firsts, we will more often see and be thrilled with a developed plot of ground that hangs together. We will know then, that some lady gardener has realized the same principles hold true that made her living room right and that she has stepped out into the garden to carry on. H.S.R.

## APTENIA CORDIFOLIA

Green the year around with an unusually pleasant, very dark shade; in bloom, again the year 'round, with an unobtrusive little purple tuft of a flower. Such is the immediate story of this mesembryanthemum which is so easy to grow and which accommodates itself to such a wide range of conditions.

Its ubiquitous tendencies are readily curbed if desired, but in this quality is found one of the finest ground covers that can be grown with the least care in California gardens. It trails splendidly for this purpose and, with support, it will climb.

The most unique and entirely satisfying use to which I have seen it put was in the covering of the side of a house, and what a needed covering, as the only other adornment it had had involved an uncertain coat of cold water paint. The plant had been grown up on chicken wire and as that had long since become invisible, the effect was enchanting.

Growth is very rapid so that the side of a garage might easily be covered within a year or a great deal of bare space or otherwise useless ground in the garden. It should be well watered once a month in the summer and, with normal rains, not at all in the winter. With poor soil it will live long. With good soil it becomes luxuriant.

As I have said, it is very adaptable; the coloring of both flower and greenery is most taking, but it is the fact of its early associations with my childhood when everyone had a pot of it blooming all winter in the sunniest window that endows this succulent as my favorite. Moreover, like bread, it is cheap and filling. —Neff K. Bakkers.

## WISTERIA BLOOM?

Often, lack of bloom is due to the fact that the vine is a seedling, and not a grafted plant. Some seedlings will never bloom, regardless of what is done; others may bloom eventually, but only after being established a great many years. Of late years, most nurseurymen will sell nothing but grafted plants. These have been propagated from blooming wood, and are sure to flower, though it may take three or four years before blooms are produced, for even grafted plants are slow to become established.

Sometimes, in the case of a vine that has refused to bloom for years, a severe root pruning will induce it to flower. Prune the roots by cutting with a sharp spade all the way around the plant, at a distance of two or three feet from the trunk; the spade must be deep, so as to cut the roots down to quite a depth. This root pruning results in the production of less foliage and tends to divert the energy of the plant toward the production of flowers.

Some authorities also advocate the pruning of side branches on the top growth. C.K.M.

## WINTER SOON

As soon as Bermuda Grass gets the least touch of frost, it's a brown, ugly spotted carpet. To maintain a green lawn throughout the winter, blue grass, clover, and Italian ryegrass may be sown any time during the next few weeks.

The troublesome, expensive methods employed in making winter lawns a few years ago, such as digging up the permanent lawn, have been supplanted by a new economical method which does not interfere with the permanent lawn.

Before sowing the winter lawn seed, rake and cut the Bermuda Grass closely, removing the clippings.

Then apply from two to four pounds of a complete balanced food per 100 square feet of lawn surface. If possible, wet down thoroughly.

Two days after applying the plant food, broadcast the winter lawn seed evenly over the lawn area, using 10 lbs. to each 1,000 square feet. Mulch with peat or leaf mold. Rake and roll and soak down thoroughly. Keep moist until growth starts; the grass should germinate in 6 to 8 days, the clover in two, and should be cut when it attains a height of 1 to 2 inches. M.G.

## TEAR GAS FOR GLADIOLUS

Treatment of infected soil with chloropicrin (tear gas) makes it practical to grow gladiolus in soil where previous plantings have been destroyed by the fungus disease known as gladiolus yellows, caused by related strains of a Fusarium fungus, the U. S. Department of Agriculture has announced. Experiments started last year by Lucia McCulloch of the Bureau of Plant Industry are being continued this year, but results seem conclusive enough to warrant growers and gardeners in making use of the method.

Gladiolus yellows is widely prevalent, and science has not yet found any method of sterilizing the gladiolus corns to prevent development of the disease in infected planting stock. Planting clean stock in clean ground is the best insurance against the disease which causes a yellowing of the foliage

and usually an early death of the infected plant. Clean stock in infected soil usually becomes infected. The disease organism lives in the soil.

The treatment has the effect of sterilizing the soil, and in test plantings last year the plots of heavily infected soil treated with the chemical yielded slightly better crops of bloom than similar plots of soil sterilized by steam.

Miss McCulloch's method was to inject 2 cubic centimeters (about one-half teaspoonful) of the chemical into each square foot of soil at a depth of about 5 inches. The soil is then moistened thoroughly and covered with a layer of gas-proof paper for 5 days. When the soil had lost all odor of the chemical (about 13 days after treatment), it was ready for planting.

This treatment, says the department, is not practical when the plan is to plant gladiolus in association with perennial plants or shrubs, since the chemical would destroy the living plants. It could be used, however, where gladiolus is planted in rows for cutting, or in beds where seeds of annual flowers are planted after the odor of the chemical has disappeared. Tear gas has been used as an effective but somewhat expensive weed-eradicator.

Gardeners who do not have a satisfactory device for injecting the chemical could probably get reasonably satisfactory results, by forcing a one-inch iron bar into the ground to a depth of five inches, then applying the chemical from an oil can with a long spout and immediately filling the hole with soil. Chloropicrin is not dangerous but the gas is very uncomfortable for the eyes.

—U.S.D.A.

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Woven garden furniture, in novel color designs, is being made from Tenite, another new plastic. Resistant to all types of weather, the furniture can be cleaned with soap and water.

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# Gleanings from the Magazines

**By Ida Louise Bryant**

In the October number of The AMERICAN HOME there are explicit directions for making a small aquarium; the article is called "The Perfect State." Apartment-house dwellers, in particular, should be easy victims of the aquarium bug; from the side-lines, it would seem like lots less work than a canary, and at the same time, furnish more variety of interest. One sentence explains the frequent renewal of the fish inhabiting the goldfish bowl of an invalid friend: "Even in a satisfactorily balanced aquarium, the minimum allowance of water for fish welfare is one quart for each inch of living fish." We remember, too, that the meticulous cleanliness of their owner must make their struggle for existence under already artificial conditions unbearably difficult; with the weekly cleaning of the bowl, scrubbing of the pebbles in it, and the thorough rinsing of the "parrot feather" grown in it as an oxygenating plant, the current occupants are subjected to a gentle but no less firm head to foot cleansing. After all, goldfish are members of the carp family, and we all know that weedy, muddy-bottomed lakes seem to be its natural habitat. And the moral of that is, don't keep your goldfish too clean.

GARDENER'S CHRONICLE for September tells us about "Sweet-scented Geraniums" and speaks of their ease of culture, in fact their determination to grow in spite of the most gross neglect. Just the thing for the "spasmodic gardener" we'll speak of later on. Does everybody know PELARGONUM CRISPUM, lemon geranium, with neat crisped leaves, small pink flowers and a deep lemony scent? And P. fragrans, Nutmeg, with the round silvery leaves and clusters of tiny white flowers? And P. tomentosum, with peppermint odor, and the downy leaves that the species indicates, and all the variations of Rose-scented geraniums? Now that pelargoniums seem to be coming into their own, and emerging from obscurity even in the nurseries, those of us who prefer fragrance to showiness of blossom may boldly plant our favorites out in the open.

In the same issue, "Buy More Daffodils" contains this paragraph: "An erroneous impression has for many years been uppermost with the public that only the so-called "short cups" belong to the stately genus Narcissus, and that the lowly Trumpets are Daffodils, or, as an older generation loved to name them, Jonquils. Fortunately, we are reaching that stage of erudition wherein we realize that Daffodils and Jonquils are Narcissi, and that Narcissi are Daffodils and Jonquils. "And that's that. From now on, anyone using the name 'Jonquils' is automatically dropped back into the limbo of that older generation—the same one that spoke of 'China Asters'?" Thank you, C.K.R., for setting me straight on those.

GOLDEN GARDENS for August has an article on bulbs which need early planting, specifying September or October; unless one is an expert gardener, with years of experience, these annual reminders never come amiss. The writer speaks highly of baby gladiolas, and of the variety mentioned so often in current articles on bulb-planting, "the spicily fragrant Gladiolus tristis."

In HOLLAND'S for September, the following garden suggestion seems pertinent: Preserve the color of each phlox variety by carefully removing every flower stalk as soon as flowers fade and BEFORE SEED IS SET. If increase is desired, use cuttings; seed produces inferior types, and ruins the parent plants.

HOUSE AND GARDEN for October has a story on Flowering Crabapples that makes one swoon with longing. In our humble opinion there is no flowering fruit tree that can compare with them for beauty and fragrance; but two experiences with them in this section

have been discouraging, to say the least. Small trees bought (by catalog—and they were the best catalogs!) as Bechtel's Double Flowering Crab and Manchurian Crab, and arriving as small dried switches after hanging about a couple of railway stations for inspection, were carefully soaked and planted as per directions. The first feebly put out a scattered leaf or two, and then gave up the ghost; the second, now three years old, defies anyone to classify it, as neither its blossoms (about three each year) nor its tiny misshapen nubbin of fruit resemble anything its owner has seen before.

If you want a good laugh at yourself—we're all there—read "Typical Gardeners" in the same issue. Under six general heads, from the Technical Type, Garden Pests, or Insects That Bore From Within, the Rhetorical Type, the Floral Drone who produces nothing, all the way down the line, we see ourselves, and our friends.

## September Meeting

At the September meeting of the Floral Association, Mr. Frank Marcy of San Diego was introduced by the president, Mrs. Greer. An exceptional showing with lantern slides of colored pictures of the Flower Show and many views of other flowers and gardens was given by Mr. Marcy. He took his audience from section to section of the show.

Another speaker of merit was Mrs. Ed Lewis of Spring Valley, who is an inveterate gardener of Chrysanthemums, and gave a most interesting and instructive talk on her all-favored subject—"Chrysanthemums." She spoke first of types, naming—the exhibition type, not new varieties; commercial, having stiff stems and good for cutting, seen in the florists shops; hardy garden; pompons; single, many kinds; fantastic, Japanese, spidery, feathery, odd forms; and anemone, not well known. There are the cascades which require soft stem-

(Continued on Page 8)

# Problems of the Soil . . . .

**By R. R. McLEAN, County Agricultural Commissioner**

### Date Palms

**Question:** Would like to know what is wrong with one of our date palms on the front lawn. The lower leaves keep turning brown and drying up. We thought at first the geraniums planted around the base had something to do with it, but after cutting most of them away we find there is no difference.

T. A.

**Answer:** The answer to this question is not very simple, as there are a number of troubles date palms are heir to that might cause the leaves to turn brown. If you will send your address to the writer, an inspector will be sent there to determine the exact cause of the trouble referred to. It is quite probable, however, that another fungus disease known as the graphiola fungus is responsible. The graphiola fungus also attacks the Canary Island palm, which next to the Cocos plumosa is our most commonly planted palm in San Diego. This disease does not affect the fan or Washington palms and the black spot disease of the latter does not attack date and Canary Island palms. The only remedy that can be suggested is that given for the black spot of fan palms; keep the lower, badly diseased leaves or fronds cut off and spray regularly with Bordeaux mixture. It is not advised, however, that this procedure be followed until an inspection by the Agricultural Commissioner's office determines the exact cause of the trouble.

### Loquat

**Question:** I want to ask some questions about a loquat. What could be wrong with a tree that died back on several branches early last spring? The tree is quite large, the soil is deep and plenty of water has been given. There are no insects on the tree that I could find. When should this tree be pruned?

Mrs. W.

**Answer:** Loquats are subject to a disease known as pear or fire blight, which ordinarily attacks them at blossoming time. The disease enters the blossoms, normally, and works its way down the twigs and branches, killing them as it descends. If it does not die out in the spring or summer, it may live over from one season to another in so-called hold-over cankers In this case the disease works downward from year to year until the roots are reached and the tree dies. This does not happen very often with loquats, however. There is only one remedy and that is to cut out affected twigs or branches promptly, cutting well below the obvious sunken or dead areas marking the progress of the disease. When the disease is actively developing it can be very easily spread by the knife or pruning shears, hence it is always advisable to disinfect the cutting instrument used in pruning, after each cut. For this purpose dip the knife in a bichloride of mercury solution, one tablet (7.3 grains) dissolved in a pint of warm water.

Under normal conditions, when blight is not a factor, loquats should be pruned in the spring after the fruit has been taken off. These trees bear their fruit on the new growth, that is, the new growth of the past summer.

### Spiders

**Question:** The plant I am sending you has been dropping its leaves profusely. First they turn pale and then drop. I recently changed the soil and would like to know if this might not cause the trouble

Mrs. J.

**Answer:** The leaves sent were quite heavily infested with minute spiders. They suck out the plant juices of the leaves and the latter turn pale and fall. The remedy is to apply dry sulphur as a dust, where the plants will stand it, or a very light oil spray. Many tender plants are injured by either sulphur

or oil sprays, hence care must be used in applying them. In such cases, particularly where the plants are not too large, a heavy and repeated spray of water applied with as much force as practicable will wash most of the spiders off.

**Sapote**

**Question:** I have a young sapote tree, now about five feet high. It is perfectly straight without any branches. Somewhere I seem to have heard that sapotes must be cut back before they will branch. Is this so, and where should they be cut?

**Answer:** Sapotes will grow into tall saplings with little or no branching unless they are cut back early. The method is to remove the terminal bud when the trees reach a height of three or four feet. When the laterals develop, following such a procedure, and have grown to a length of 18 to 24 inches, they should be tipped also. If this method is followed, you will have a well-branched tree. It is not too late to cut back your five-foot tree and follow the procedure indicated.

**Hard-Husking Almonds**

**Question:** I have three almonds and a walnut tree in bearing. This year the husks of many of the nuts were stuck tight and could be gotten off only with difficulty. Is this a fault of these particular trees or is there some other cause for it? C. F.

**Answer:** A number of causes are usually assigned for this condition. Usually it is lack of irrigation at the proper time, soil lacking in fertility, excessively hot weather during the period the nuts are growing, or in some cases, insect attack. This latter factor is particularly true of almonds. Almonds are very subject to red spiders and these minute animals (strictly speaking they are not insects) may cause considerable injury to such trees. Trees heavily infested with spiders very definitely lack vigor and weak trees, further weakened perhaps by lack of irrigation water, cannot mature good, free-husking nuts.

Give your trees good care next

(Continued on Page 8)

# Rosarians Meet in Own Garden

**By MRS. CLAYTON B. PIERCE**

The study and practice of horticulture, either as a hobby or as a means of livelihood, is one of the few factors which helps man to remain rational in such a turbulent world. The glory of the rose has inspired poets and artists since time immemorial. It has been conceded the "Queen of Flowers" by all peoples of the earth. In the research for the beauty, perfume, and color of the rose, all mankind has joined hands, cast aside racial feuds, language handicaps and distance barriers. From war-torn Europe comes pathetic reports of the efforts of rose lovers who "carry-on" with their experiments in hybridization and rose culture—even in the midst of battlefields. It will be many years before the world may again enjoy as stimulating and healthful a common interest as the last decade or two has had, as evidenced by the outstanding efforts of Denmark's Nurs Poulsen; Spain's Pedro Dot and H. M. Rubio; France's Pernet; England's McGredy; Germany's Herman Kordes; and Holland's Van Rossen.

Fortunately, for whatever influence on civilization the aesthetic pursuits may have, America has been coming to the forefront in the rose world for many years and is now quite capable of continuing alone until the rest of the world has learned that the finest things in life are to be found in their own garden instead of in their neighbors.

The American Rose Society, with printing offices in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, is the nucleus for the major part of the research work done with the rose in the United States. Through the American Rose Society the results of most of the world's experiments with roses, are disseminated to rose lovers in the United States. These experiments are made in authorized American Rose Society gardens in various parts of the United States; by Agricultural Experimental Stations; by Commercial Rose Growers; and by the individual membership of the Society. Members also make reports on the comparative value of new roses as grown in their particular localities.

Dr. L. M. Massey, Professor of Plant Pathology at Cornell University, is the present President of the American Rose Society, with R. Marion Hatton serving as secretary. The membership of the Society is composed of rose lovers in every state in the Union and almost every country in the world. Each fall the Society has a general meeting in the form of a symposium. The fall meeting is changed from one part of the country to another, each year, thereby drawing the symposiums experimentors from all over the country.

The 1940 annual meeting of the American Rose Society is to be held in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, on October 20, 21 and 22. Although a new state, being just past the half century mark in statehood, Oklahoma has a rapidly growing interest in rose culture. Many towns and cities in the state are promoting Municipal Rose Gardens. Tulsa has a beautiful well-established garden in the heart of her naturally-wooded residential section. Oklahoma City will have the American Rose Society dedicate their new Municipal Rose Garden at the October meeting. This garden has 10,000 hybrid tea roses, 2,000 Polyantha roses, and 500 species, perpetual and hardy climbers planted in it. Low average rainfall, long drouth seasons, hot winds, dust storms, naturally alkaline soil and late spring freezes make this garden a real accomplishment in rose growing. Despite such hazards the Oklahoma Rose Society, headed by J. Henry Johnson of Oklahoma City, has promoted and established this garden. This Society has over one hundred members and will be hosts to the American Rose Society this fall. The program is very ambitious and will cover every

phase of rose culture which is deemed of interest to the 1940 rose-grower. The speakers are those who have done outstanding experimental work in rose-growing from coast to coast and such a symposium will not only serve to co-ordinate the efforts of those interested in rose culture, but will strengthen the "balance-wheel" of our country.

—Mrs. Clayton B. Pierce.

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Mrs. Janet Branstedt announces the Thanksgiving Rose Show will be staged by **The San Diego Rose Society** in the Fine Arts Gallery November 16th and 17th. Further details may be expected in the November issue.

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# September Meeting

(Continued from Page 6)

med mums. Every person has his or her own appealing types for their garden, she said.

Cultivation, experimenting with seeds, which should be planted in April and May; fertilizing; plant problems were some of the instructive subjects briefly given. An invitation by Mrs. Lewis was extended to the Floral members and friends to visit her noteworthy Chrysanthemum Gardens.

Mr. Jerebek very interestingly described many botanical specimens from Balboa Park of which were: Tecomaria capensis (Cape honeysuckle); Pyracantha duvalli and P. yunnanensis; seeds of common Oleander; Cocculus laurifolia (semi-climber); Physostegia virginiana (rose pink); P. gigantea (7 feet); P. grandiflora (pink flowers); Thevetia nereifolia from Bermuda Islands and producing three-cornered nuts which are polished by the natives and sold to tourists as "lucky stones." It is also known as yellow Oleaner. Other specimens were Leucophyllum texanum from the Rio Grande region; Cortaderia rudiuscula; Pyracantha crenulata var flava, P. kansuensis; Pittosporum rhombifolium and undulatum with berries of waxy orange shade splendid for autumn effects; Phormium tenax (seeds); and Tricholaena rosea (ruby grass).

Mrs. Greer announced the date for the forthcoming "Chrysanthemum" show—October 26 and 27—the show to be held in the Floral Building, Balboa Park. Plants, bulbs, and seeds will be on sale, and there will be a "White Elephant" table where flower containers of all kinds may be purchased. Mrs. Greer urges everyone to take care of his mums so they will be in exhibition form. G.M.G.

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**"Green Grows the City"** is an inviting title recently added to the books on gardening at the San Diego Public Library. Beverly Nichols, the author, has that unreasonable passion for gardening that is recognized and admired by every other unreasonable gardener. In his new book he tells how he took a house thirty miles from the center of London with a desolate strip of earth around it. At first all he did to it was to plant three rhododendrons. Within the next three months he added a domed Regency greenhouse. Encouraged by success he added successively a fernery, a cactus collection, a rock garden, and some window boxes gaily planted. A skillful gardener, he has what he calls "green fingers"—the power to make flowers grow and weeds perish. In "Green Grows the City," his periodic battles with his neighbor, Mrs. H., about his changes to the place add the humor and character interest so often found in his books.

MARGARET FOLLICK.

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# Problems of the Soil

(Continued from Page 7)

season, good care including insect control, sufficient water and fertilizer and you will have little trouble with stick tights, even though the weather should be quite warm.

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Grass Seed

**Question:** How much lawn grass seed will it take to seed a space 20 by 25 feet? What is the best mixture to use? Mrs. S. M.

**Answer:** Ordinarily a pound of lawn grass seed will cover from 150 to 200 square feet. However, if sown thickly, weeds will have less of a chance to start. The writer believes that it is better to allow a pound to 100 or 125 square feet. The cast of the seed is relatively small and a better lawn can be secured more quickly if the seed is not sown sparingly.

The question of mixture may be one of opinion, but the combination of one-quarter or one-third white clover to three-quarters (or two-thirds) Kentucky blue grass is hard to beat. Kentucky blue grass is certainly the best lawn for most sections of California and the white clover added to it furnishes a quick germinating legume that shelters and protects the more tender and slower growing blue-grass. The white clover also adds some fertilizer (nitrogen) to the ground drawing it from the air and depositing it on the roots.

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**Fig Cuttings**

**Question:** I would like to take some fig cuttings. Kindly advise me when and how to take them.
D. L.

**Answer:** Cuttings should not be taken until the trees are thoroughly dormant, preferably from December or January to March. Take cuttings from well matured wood of the previous season's growth, giving preference to the stocky short-jointed shoots. Tip cuttings can be made from the ends of short lateral shoots, bearing tip buds. These cuttings are usually 10 or 12 inches in length and are planted with only one bud above ground. In cuttings of figs, always cut through the joint where the wood is hardest.

If cuttings are not allowed to dry out and are planted properly, they will root very easily.

## One Wonders

Do birds have to think "What will the neighbors say?" the same as humans?

The question is brought up by the revelation that robins who spend the winter in San Antonio get "drunk" eating the fruit of the chinaberry tree. They get in such a stupor they actually fall out of the trees.

Local birds, however, don't succumb to the temptation. And some of the humans who make San Antonio their home suggest that the robins are entirely northern birds, and only go on a binge like this when they're away from the prying and gossiping of neighbors.
—Union.

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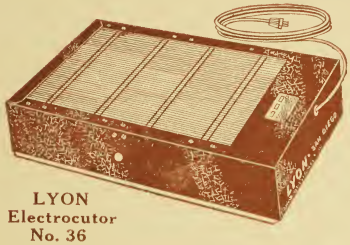

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# LAKES and ARID HILLS

This condition in connection with our reservoirs is not natural, nor does it have to be so forever. Brush at the top and small trees on the lower slope is normal, but fire and man has largely cleaned them off. Man will put them back when the people are ready.


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